



Weekly Itinerary

Shirts Across America (SAA) provides high school students an opportunity to grow in leadership as they volunteer building homes in New Orleans. At the heart of our program is the goal to move every family home. To help accomplish this, we roll up our sleeves and put in some hard work. Following their experiences with our organization, many participants return home empowered to make a difference in their own communities. Our immersion trips are fun, exciting and educational! Below you will find a snapshot of what a week on one of our trips might look like.

Day 1

Students arrive in New Orleans at Louis Armstrong Airport in their groups with their Adult Team Lead (ATL). Participants will be greeted by Shirts Across America staff that will guide them to their accommodations for the week. Teams will have a chance to explore the French Quarter and taste beignets while walking along the Mississippi River. We turn in early on this first evening to allow adequate rest for the following day's activities.

Day 2

Activities for Day 2 will center around discovering the culture of New Orleans. Faith is deeply rooted in the city and our students will be immersed in the musical experience of a Gospel Mass. Before starting work, it is important that our volunteers understand how Hurricane Katrina created such immense damage and the different ways rebuilding has occurred since the storm. Time will be spent exploring the city, allowing students to understand the bigger picture of the storm.

Day 3

The workday begins bright and early! Students will be given a home to work on throughout the week. Tasks vary from hanging dry wall, mudding, taping, flooring, and more! They will be taught these different skills by site supervisors who are trained in the field. Following the workday, students will hear firsthand what it was like to live through the storm from our guest speakers.

Day 4

Back for another day of home building and learning, students will see progress as projects are underway. After a day of work, students will get to taste the food of New Orleans from one of the local restaurants in the city. Whether its jambalaya, po'boys or red beans and rice, students will enjoy the Crescent City's flavors.

Day 5

Mid-week continues in Building Homes to Build Leaders. Students will enjoy an energetic evening in the French Quarter after their work has ended. The night will begin by eating at one of New Orleans' most prestigious restaurants and ends with walking through the French Quarter with their teams. Students will get to see New Orleans tourism first hand.

Day 6

As the week wraps up, students will not only continue to build, but will start to see various neighborhoods and explore the unique character of each one. Students may even have the chance to view colleges in New Orleans. Lastly, this day is filled with the musical culture of New Orleans. There will be opportunities to hear jazz music at the famous Preservation Hall or at another iconic venue.

Day 7

Our last day in New Orleans is filled with completing projects and celebrations. Some students will get to meet their homeowners or might attend a "Welcome Home" party. These parties are a chance for students to celebrate another family moving home and see what a completed home looks like. We encourage groups to eat out at a local restaurant in support of the local economy and enjoyment of Creole/Cajun cuisine. The night closes with several team activities and sharing in reflection of the trip.

Please note this is our best projection for the weekly itinerary. Some changes may occur depending on week of travel and the availability of our New Orleans partners.